Bank through an executive committee elected by themselves and having at least one woman member.

The Government proposes to implement the revised scheme during the remaining period of Tenth Five Year Plan. During 2005-06 and 2006-07 it is proposed to establish approximately 12,000 Grain Banks in the country in the food scarce areas including adivasi areas.

Diversion of items meant for PDS

610. SHRIMATI S.G INDIRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that surveys conducted by independent agencies had revealed that 100 per cent diversion in the case of wheat and 60 per cent diversion in rice meant for the public distribution system have been taking place in most of the North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to prevent the diversion of items meant for PDS including in North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In a recent study conducted by ORG Marg, New Delhi on evaluation of Targeted Public Distribution System in the country diversion of foodgrains (wheat and rice) has been reported in most of the States. In the North Eastern States the position reported is as under:—

Name of the State	Diversion (%)	
	Rice	Wheat
Arunachal Pradesh	64.1	96.2
Assam	37.2	100.0
Manipur	97.7	100.0
Meghalaya	61.3	100.0
Mizoram	52.6	100.0
Nagaland	88.6	100.0
Sikkim	Negligible	100.0
Tripura	3.8	Not Calculated

(c) A well-knit system to monitor distribution of foodgrains and other goods being distributed under PDS is already in place. Under the System the responsibility for distribution of foodgrains and other goods through PDS outlets in a transparent and efficient manner, lies with the respective State Governments. However, the following measures have been taken by the Government to reach the PDS items to the beneficiaries;

(i) The Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 was issued in order to streamline the functioning of the PDS and to make the same more effective and accountable. Any offence committed in violation of the provisions of the Order invokes criminal liability under Section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

(ii) The State Governments and the Union Territory Administrations have been asked to actively involve the Panchayati Raj Institutions to monitor the functioning of the Fair Price Shops, as a measure of social audit.

(iii) The State and Union Territories have also been asked to constitute Vigilance Committees at the State, District, Block and FPS levels to oversee the functioning of PDS.

(iv) With a view to efficiently reaching PDS commodities to the consumers in a transparent manner, a model Citizen's Charter has been issued by the Central Government for adoption by the State Governments/UT Administration.

(v) Under the Area Officers Scheme, the Senior Officers of the Government visits their allocated States/UTs to conduct review of the TPDS. The observations made by the Area Officers in their reports are sent to the concerned State Government/UT for taking necessary action.

(vi) In the Regional Conferences held recently at Mumbai, Shimla, Thiruvananathapuram, Kolkata and Guwahati, the State Governments/UTs were requested to take immediate necessary steps to curb diversion, through inspections, computerisation and effective implementation of PDS Control order.

(vii) To check the black marketing of the SKO, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) undertake inspections of SKO dealers and take action against guilty dealers based on the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines/Dealership Agreement. The action taken

includes termination of dealerships, imposition of fines, suspension of supplies, warning etc.

Role of IT in food and farm marketing

611. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India had organized a five-day conference emphasizing the role of IT in food and farm marketing;

(b) if so, the details of the participants in the meeting organization-wise and country-wise;

(c) the details of issues discussed in the meeting; and

(d) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Food Corporation of India alongwith Central Warehousing Corporation and National Cooperative Development Corporation jointly organized the Regional Workshop of Association of Food and Agricultural Marketing Agencies in Asia and the Pacific, an agency of FAO in India from 26th to 30th September, 2005 in New Delhi. The details of the participants organization-wise and country-wise is enclosed as Statement I (See below).

(c) and (d) During the course of five days Workshop, the participants made presentation in respect of their country/organization. The theme of the Workshop was "use of Information Technology in Food and Agricultural marketing in Asia". The Workshop discussed four technical papers and nine country reports *viz.*

(i) Information Technology in Food and Agricultural Marketing System in the Philippines,

(ii) IT Applications in Agricultural Marketing Services,

(iii) Business Process & IT Enabled Operation,

(iv) Information, Distribution and Management System-IT Application in Agricultural Marketing.